Network Systems
Science & Advanced
Computing

Biocomplexity Institute & Initiative

University of Virginia

Estimation of COVID-19 Impact in Virginia

December 16th, 2020

(data current to December 14-15th)
Biocomplexity Institute Technical report: TR 2020-160



BIOCOMPLEXITY INSTITUTE

biocomplexity.virginia.edu

About Us

- Biocomplexity Institute at the University of Virginia
 - Using big data and simulations to understand massively interactive systems and solve societal problems
- Over 20 years of crafting and analyzing infectious disease models
 - Pandemic response for Influenza, Ebola, Zika, and others



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Overview

• Goal: Understand impact of COVID-19 mitigations in Virginia

Approach:

- Calibrate explanatory mechanistic model to observed cases
- Project infections for next 4 months
- Consider a range of possible mitigation effects in "what-if" scenarios

Outcomes:

- Ill, Confirmed, Hospitalized, ICU, Ventilated, Death
- Geographic spread over time, case counts, healthcare burdens



Key Takeaways

Projecting future cases precisely is impossible and unnecessary. Even without perfect projections, we can confidently draw conclusions:

- Case growth in Virginia seems to have further rebounded following Thanksgiving holiday
- VA mean weekly incidence (44/100K) up (from 35) as national surge slows and is steady for first week in months (to 66/100K from 67/100K).
- Recent updates:
 - Added preliminary estimates for vaccination impact
 - Planning scenarios date adjusted to Christmas holiday, Dec 24th
 - Case ascertainment estimates recalculated with new data, remain unchanged
- Behavioral changes can outpace impact of optimistic vaccine rollout and prevent significantly more cases by Spring
- The situation is changing rapidly. Models will be updated regularly.



Situation Assessment

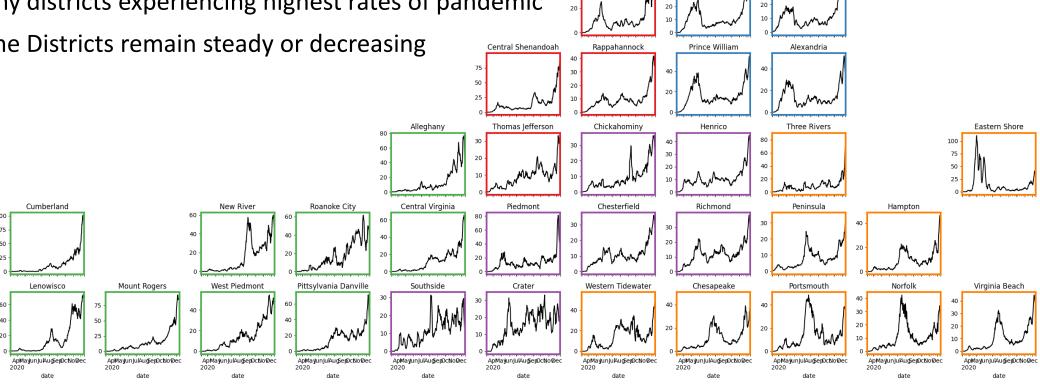


Case Rate (per 100k) by VDH District

Surging Rates continue

- Majority of Districts have increasing rates
- Many districts experiencing highest rates of pandemic

Some Districts remain steady or decreasing





Test Positivity by VDH District

Central Virginia

Southside

Piedmont

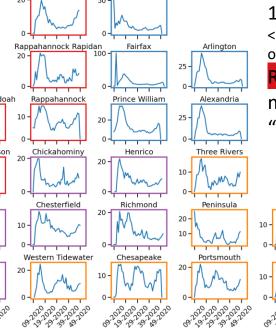
Roanoke City

Weekly changes in test positivity by district

 Increasing levels in many districts throughout the commonwealth with many districts above 10% for several weeks

 49 counties reporting over 10% at end of November

New River



Loudour

Lord Fairfax

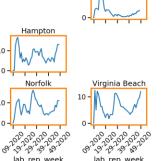
County level test positivity rates for RT-PCR tests.

Green: Test positivity <5.0% (or with <20 tests in past 14 days)

Yellow: Test positivity 5.0%
10.0% (or with <500 tests and

<2000 tests/100k and >10% positivity over 14 days)

Red: >10.0% and not meeting the criteria for "Green" or "Yellow"



https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/q5r5-gjyu

Culpeper County

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

Mount Rogers

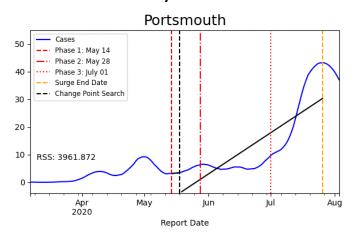
Cumberland

District Trajectories

Goal: Define epochs of a Health District's COVID-19 incidence to characterize the current trajectory

Method: Find recent peak and use hockey stick fit to find inflection point afterwards, then use this period's slope to define the trajectory

Hockey stick fit



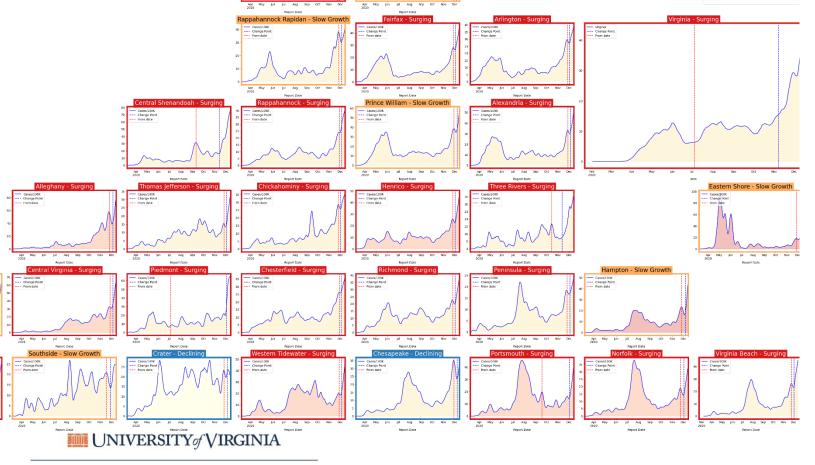
Trajectory	Description	Weekly Case Rate (per 100K) bounds	# Districts (prev week)
Declining	Sustained decreases following a recent peak	below -0.9	2 (6)
Plateau	Steady level with minimal trend up or down	above -0.9 and below 0.5	1 (1)
Slow Growth	Sustained growth not rapid enough to be considered a Surge	above 0.5 and below 2.5	7 (11)
In Surge	Currently experiencing sustained rapid and significant growth	2.5 or greater	25 (17)



District Trajectories

Status	# Districts (prev week)
Declining	2 (6)
Plateau	1 (1)
Slow Growth	7 (11)
In Surge	25 (17)

Curve shows smoothed case rate (per 100K) Trajectories of states in label & chart box Case Rate curve colored by Reproductive



0.2 <= R < 0.5

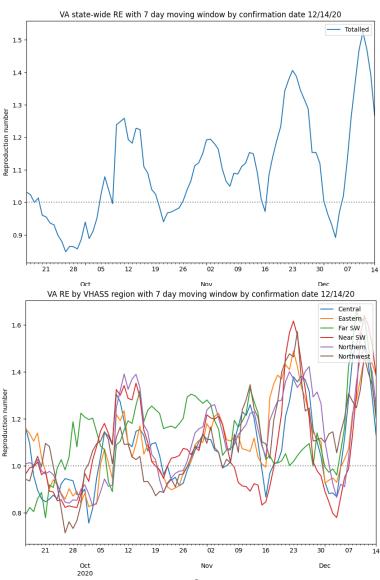
Estimating Daily Reproductive Number

Dec 14th Estimates

Region	Date Confirmed R _e	Date Confirmed Diff Last Week
State-wide	1.394	0.264
Central	1.131	-0.151
Eastern	1.387	0.315
Far SW	1.202	-0.221
Near SW	1.386	0.399
Northern	1.256	0.222
Northwest	1.222	-0.087

Methodology

- Wallinga-Teunis method (EpiEstim¹) for cases by confirmation date
- Serial interval: 6 days (2 day std dev)
- Using Confirmation date since due to increasingly unstable estimates from onset date due to backfill

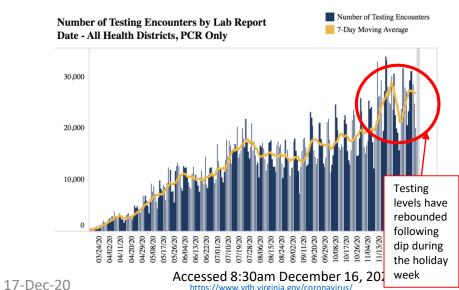


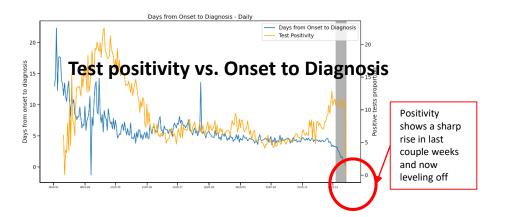
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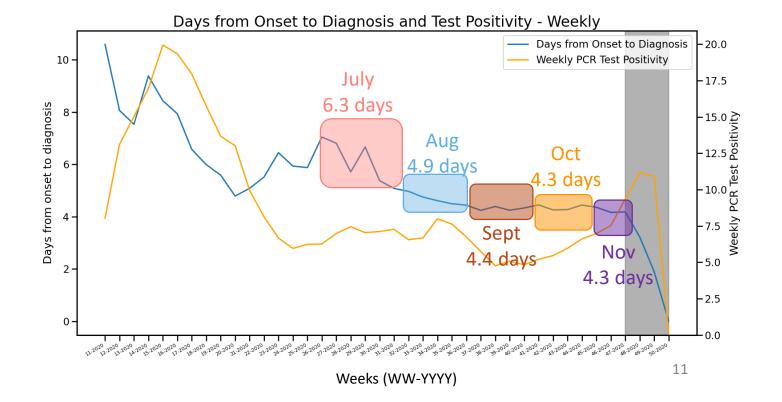
^{1.} Anne Cori, Neil M. Ferguson, Christophe Fraser, Simon Cauchemez. A New Framework and Software to Estimate Time-Varying Reproduction Numbers During Epidemics. American Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 178, Issue 9, 1 November 2013, Pages 1505–1512, https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwt133

Changes in Case Detection

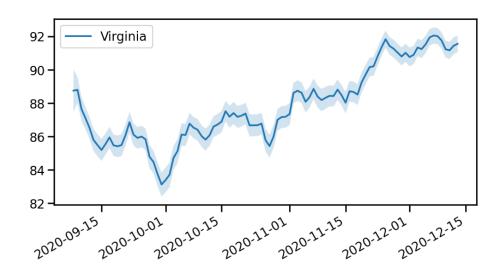
Timeframe (weeks)	Mean days	% difference from overall mean
April (13-16)	8.3	51%
May (17-21)	5.6	2%
June (22-25)	5.9	8%
July (26-30)	6.3	15%
Aug (31-34)	4.9	-12%
Sept (35-38)	4.4	-20%
Oct (39-43)	4.3	-22%
Nov (44-47)	4.3	-22%
Overall (13-47)	5.5	0%







Mask usage in Virginia

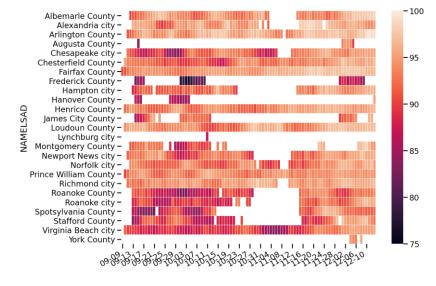


State level mask usage as reported via Facebook surveys over

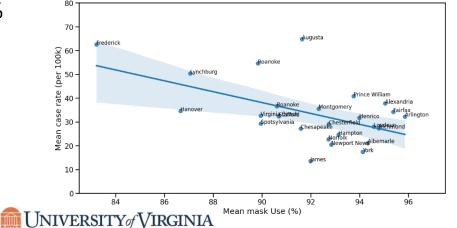
the past month shows ranges from 83% to 91%

- Relatively stable over time
- Limited variance across the commonwealth
- ~3000 daily responses from VA

Data Source: https://covidcast.cmu.edu



Some county level fluctuations since beginning of Sept., though data quality may be affected by sample sizes.



Correlations seen among VA counties between mask use and case rate are now stronger due to surging growth

Slope: - 2.14; for every % we see a 2/100K case rate difference

Health Care Worker Prevalence (per 100K)

Case Rates among health workers vs. total population in last week

- Based on Census counts of patient-facing health care workers (Practitioners and Technologists)
- Ratios above one (green to blue)
 represent areas where HCWs were
 infected at higher rates than the rest of
 the population

 Many areas have high burden on HCW, especially southern VA

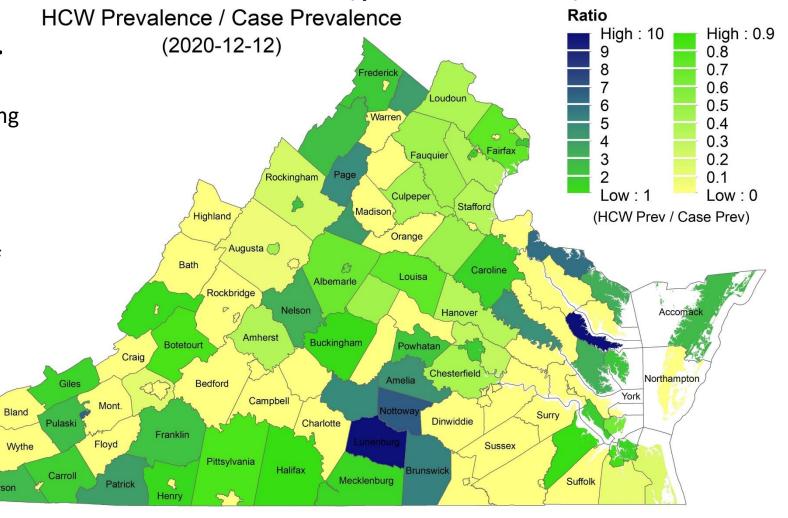
Buchanar

Russell

Washington

Tazewell

Smyth

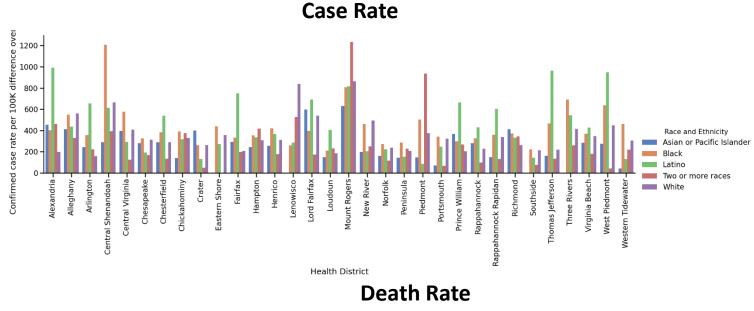


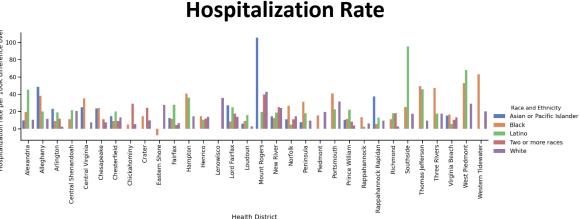


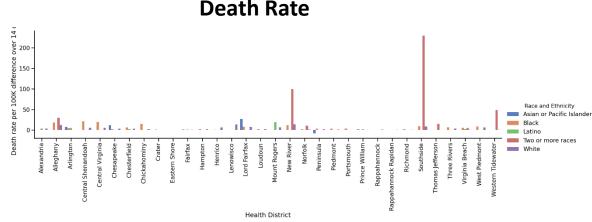
Race and Ethnicity – Recent Rate Changes (per 100K)

Recent Changes in Race and Ethnicity Rates (per 100k)

- Two week change in population level rates
- Black, Latinx and 2 or more races populations have much higher changes in rates Disparity is more pronounced in some districts than others
- Based on 2019 census race-ethnicity data by county

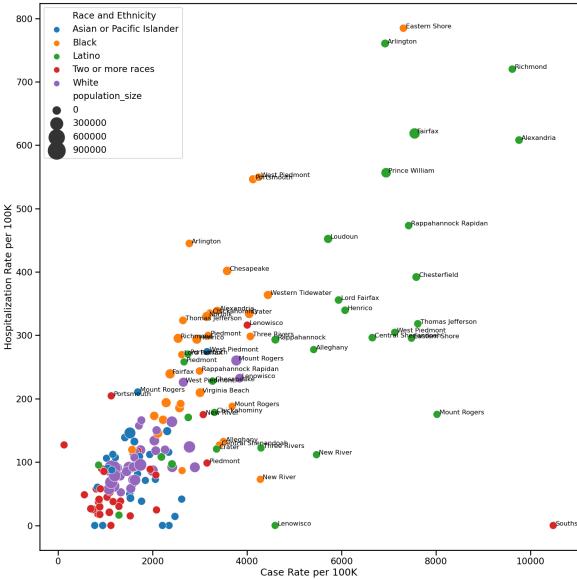








Race and Ethnicity cases per 100K



Rates per 100K of each Racial-Ethnic population by Health District

 Each Health District's Racial-Ethnic population is plotted by their Hospitalization and Case Rate

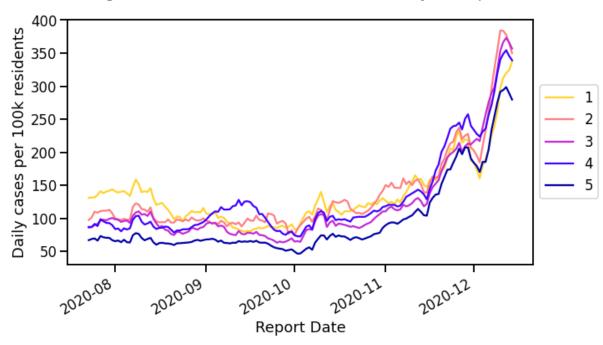
15

- Points are sized based on their overall population size
- Overlapping labels removed for clarity

17-Dec-20

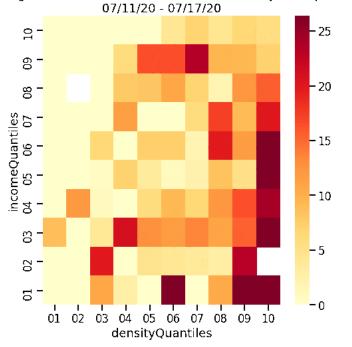
Impact across Density and Income

VDH 7-day moving average rate of new COVID-19 cases by zip code average household income (dollars/ household years) quantile



All zip codes show rapid growth and ordering is in flux with the middle quintiles (20th to 80th percentiles) bearing the highest rates

VDH mean cases per 100k by zip code population density (person/ sq mile) and average household income (dollars/ household years) quantiles



Full evolution of pandemic, shows shifts from denser and wealthier zip codes to poorer and less dense zip codes, followed by a repeat of the pattern. Recently see an uptick across the spectrum of density and income



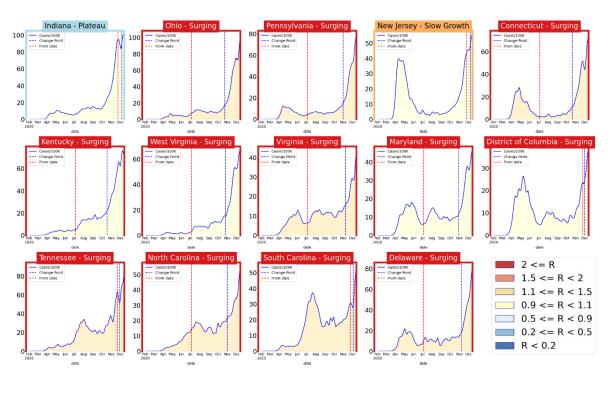
Other State Comparisons

Trajectories of States

1.1 <= R < 1.5 0.9 <= R < 1.1 0.5 <= R < 0.9 0.2 <= R < 0.5

 Many of states with huge surges in past 6 weeks (Plains & Midwest) are subsiding

Virginia and her neighbors



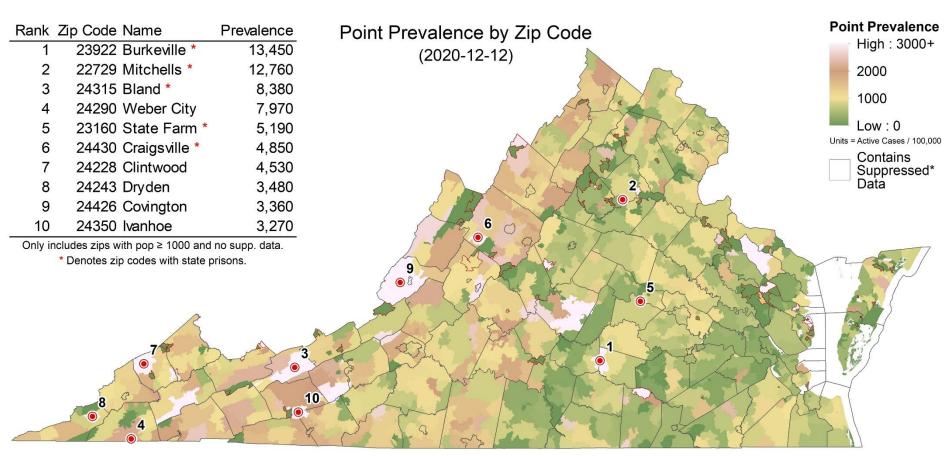
- VA and most mid-Atlantic states are in surge (31 total in US)
- All states have highest rates of the pandemic in past week



Zip code level weekly Case Rate (per 100K)

Case Rates in the last week by zip code

- Concentrations of very high prevalence in many zip codes
- Several of the top ten zip codes are home to prisons
- Southwest has considerable concentration of high prevalence zips
- Some counts are low and suppressed to protect anonymity, those are shown in white

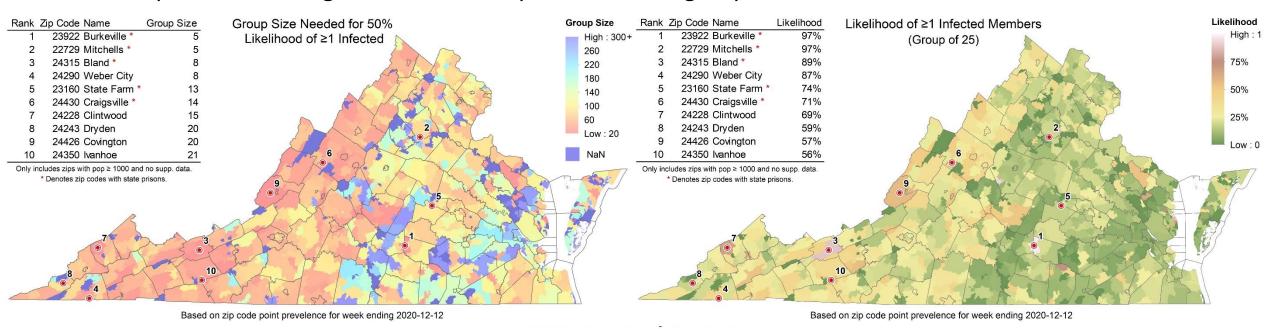




Risk of Exposure by Group Size

Case Prevalence in the last week by zip code used to calculate risk of encountering someone infected in a gathering of randomly selected people (group size 25)

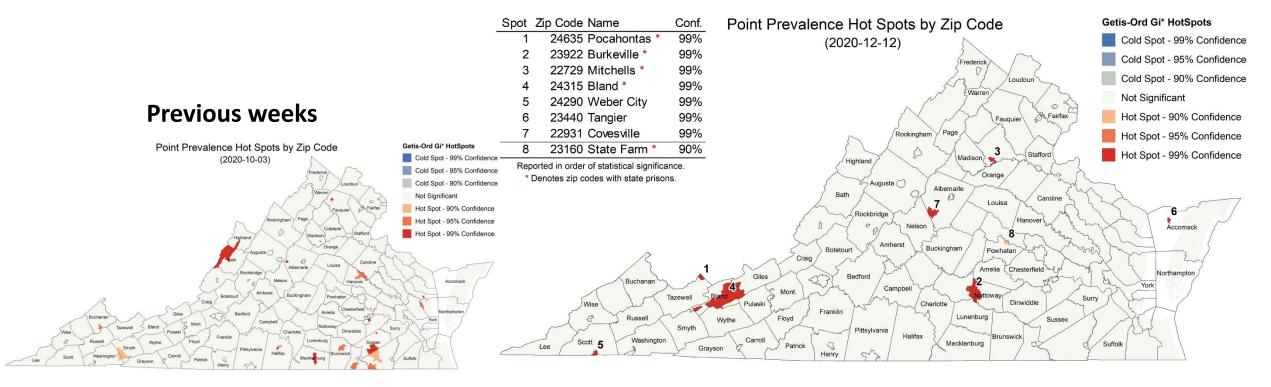
- Assumes 3 undetected infections per confirmed case (ascertainment rate from recent seroprevalence survey)
- On left, minimum size of a group with a 50% chance an individual is infected by zip code (eg in a group of 20 in Staunton, there is a 50% chance someone will be infected)
- Some zip codes have high likelihood of exposure even in groups of 25



Zip Code Hot Spots

Hotspots across commonwealth

- More spread out but remain concentrated in the Southwest
- Captures some very high prevalence rates in some zips





Model Update – Adaptive Fitting



Adaptive Fitting Approach

Each county fit precisely, with recent trends used for future projection

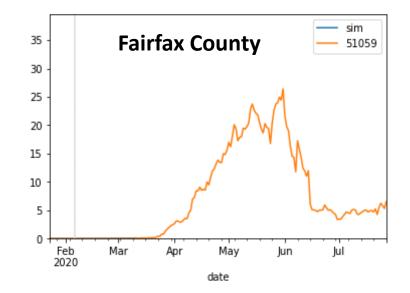
 Allows history to be precisely captured, and used to guide bounds on projections

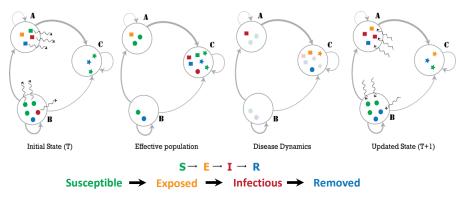
Model: An alternative use of the same meta-population model, PatchSim

- Allows for future "what-if" Scenarios to be layered on top of calibrated model
- Eliminates connectivity between patches, to allow calibration to capture the increasingly unsynchronized epidemic

External Seeding: Steady low-level importation

- Widespread pandemic eliminates sensitivity to initial conditions
- Uses steady 1 case per 10M population per day external seeding



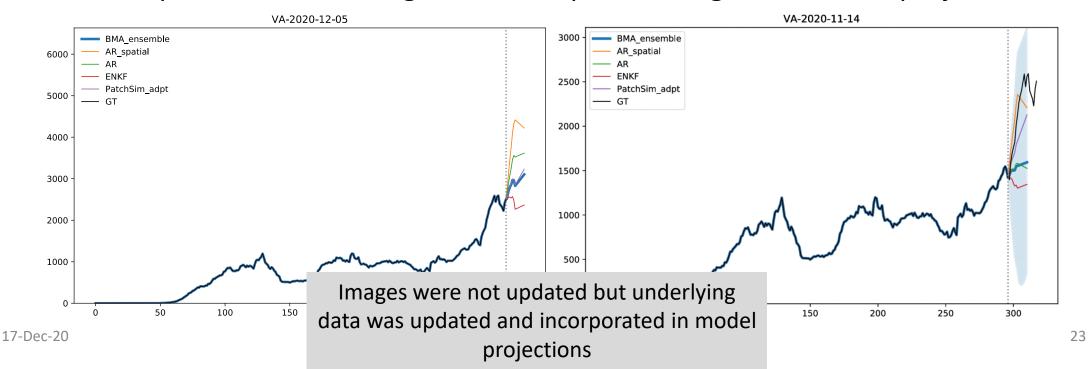




Using Ensemble Model to Guide Projections

An ensemble methodology that combines the Adaptive Fitting and machine learning and statistical models has been developed and refined

- Models: Adaptive Fitting, ARIMA, LSTM, AR, spatially driven AR, Kalman Filters (ENKF)
- This approach facilitates the use of other data streams (weather, mobility, etc.)
- Ensemble provides scaffolding for the Adaptive Fitting's short-term projections



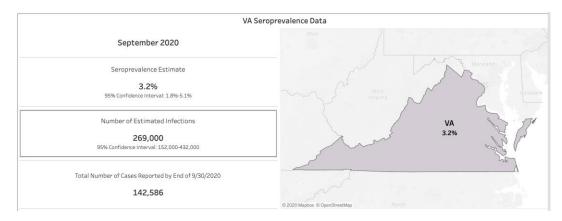
Seroprevalence updates to model design

Several seroprevalence studies provide better picture of how many actual infections have occurred

- Virginia Serology Study estimated 2.4% of Virginians estimated infected (as of Aug 15th)
- CDC Nationwide Commercial Laboratory Seroprevalence Survey estimated 4.1% [2.4% – 6.2%] seroprevalence as of Oct 9th-21st up from 3.2% a month earlier

These findings are equivalent to an ascertainment ratio of ~3x, with bounds of (1x to 7x)

- Thus for 3x there are 3 total infections in the population for every confirmed case
- Uncertainty design has been shifted to these bounds (previously higher ascertainments as was consistent earlier in the pandemic were being used)



https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#national-lab

Virginia Coronavirus Serology Project Interim findings by region and statewide - July 22, 2020

		Nontro	Crude	Weighted preva	lence*
Region	Number of participants		prevalence per 100 participants	per 100 population	(95% CI)
Central	400	8	2.0	3.0	(0.5, 5.5)
East	707	9	1.3	1.5	(-0.2, 3.2)
Northern	819	36	4.4	4.2	(2.5, 5.9)
Northwest	756	11	1.5	0.9	(0.2, 1.6)
Southwest	431	3	0.7	1.0	(-0.2, 2.1)
Virginia	3,113	67	2.2	2.4	(1.6, 3.1)

^{*} Weighted prevalence is reweighted by region, age, sex, race, ethnicity, and insurance status to match census population.

https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/8/2020/08/VDH-Serology-Projects-Update-8-13-2020.pdf



Calibration Approach

- Data:
 - County level case counts by date of onset (from VDH)
 - Confirmed cases for model fitting
- Calibration: fit model to observed data and ensemble's forecast
 - Tune transmissibility across ranges of:
 - Duration of incubation (5-9 days), infectiousness (3-7 days)
 - Undocumented case rate (1x to 7x) guided by seroprevalence studies
 - Detection delay: exposure to confirmation (4-12 days)
 - Approach captures uncertainty, but allows model to precisely track the full trajectory of the outbreak
- **Project:** future cases and outcomes generated using the collection of fit models run into the future
 - Mean trend from last 14 days of observed cases and first week of ensemble's forecast used
 - Outliers removed based on variances in the previous 3 weeks
 - 2 week interpolation to smooth transitions in rapidly changing trajectories





COVID-19 in Virginia:



Dashboard Updated: 12/16/2020 Data entered by 5:00 PM the prior day.

		Cases, Hospitaliza	itions and Deaths		
Total Cases* 292,240 (New Cases: 3,931)^		Total Hospitalizations** 16,353		Total Deaths 4,508	

- Includes both people with a positive test (Confirmed), and symptomatic with a known exposure to COVID-19 (Probable).
- ** Hospitalization status at time case was investigated by VDH. This underrepresents the total number of hospitalizations in Virginia
- New cases represent the number of confirmed and probable cases reported to VDH in the past 24 hours
- † VDH adopted the updated CDC COVID-19 confirmed and probable surveillance case definitions on August 27, 2020. Found here: https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/08/05
- Source: Cases Virginia Electronic Disease Surveillance System (VEDSS), data entered by 5:00 PM the prior day

Outbreaks		
Total Outbreaks*	Outbreak Associated Cases	
1,704	38,263	

* At least two (2) lab confirmed cases are required to classify an outbreak

For more information about the Long Term Care Facilities and School (K-12) outbreaks please visit these links:

Click here to go to Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Facilities	Click here to go to Outbreaks in School Settings
	Testing (PCR Only)
Testing Encounters PCR Only	* Current 7-Day Positivity Rate PCR Only**
3,780,026	11.4%

- * PCR" refers to "Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction laboratory testing."
- ** Lab reports may not have been received yet. Percent positivity is not calculated for days with incomplete data.

Multisystem Syndrome	Inflammatory in Children
Total Cases*	Total Deaths
12	0

*Cases defined by CDC HAN case definition: https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00432.as

Accessed 8:30am December 16, 2020 https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus

Scenarios – Seasonal Effects and Vaccines

- Societal changes in the past month have led to an increase in transmission rates, these could continue to drive transmission
 - Seasonal impact of weather patterns, interactions at places of learning, travel related to holidays and traditional large family gatherings, fatigue with infection control practices
 - Population's behaviors determine the level of control of transmission we can achieve
- Vaccination has started, focus on priority groups may limit population level effects initially, though small impacts may be observed in early February
 - Initial rollout estimated at 12.5M people in US (~330K in VA) in January, then 25M (~660K) per month, assumes limited impact from any vaccinations in December.
 - Assume all available vaccine is administered and has 80% efficacy in 2 weeks (timing more sensitive than max efficacy in early stages)
 - Counterfactuals with no vaccine ("NoVax") are provided for comparison purposes

Scenarios – Seasonal Effects and Vaccines

- Three bahavioral scenarios capture possible trajectories starting Dec 24th, 2020
 - Adaptive: No change from base projection
 - Adaptive-MoreControl: 15% decrease in transmission starting Dec 24th, 2020
 - Adaptive-LessControl: 15% increase in transmission starting Dec 24th, 2020
- Vaccinations are incorporated in "base" projections, counterfactuals without vaccinations provide lower bound on vaccines impact
 - Adaptive-NoVax: No change from base projection without vaccine
 - Adaptive-NoVax-MoreControl: 15% decrease in transmission starting Dec 24th, 2020 without vaccine
 - Adaptive-NoVax-LessControl: 15% increase in transmission starting Dec 24th, 2020 without vaccine

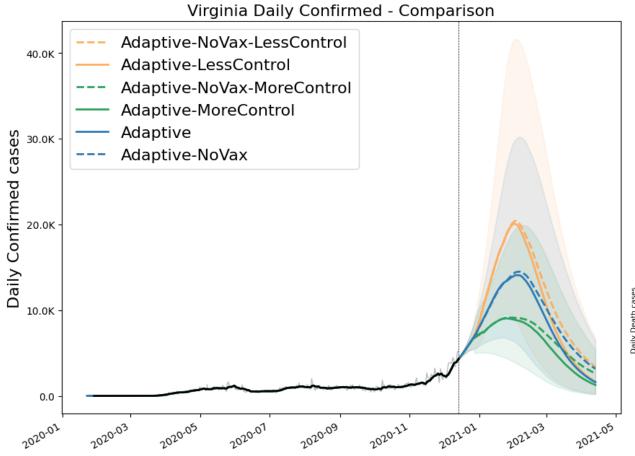


Model Results

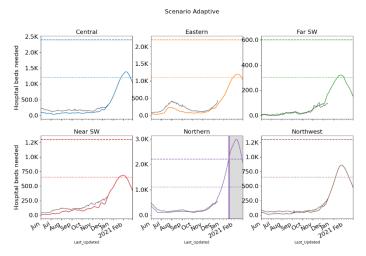


Outcome Projections

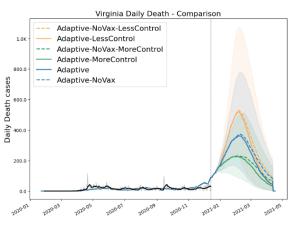
Confirmed cases



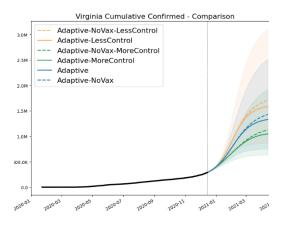
Estimated Hospital Occupancy



Daily Deaths



Cumulative Confirmed cases





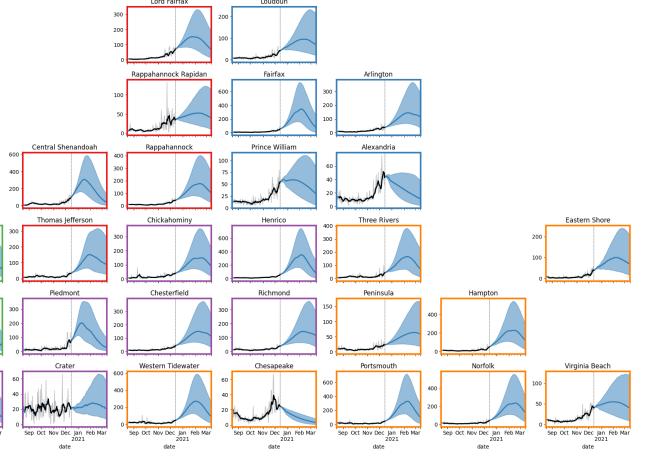
District Level Projections: Adaptive

Adaptive projections by District

Projections that best fit recent trends

 Daily confirmed cases rate (per 100K) by Region (blue solid) with simulation colored by scenario

200



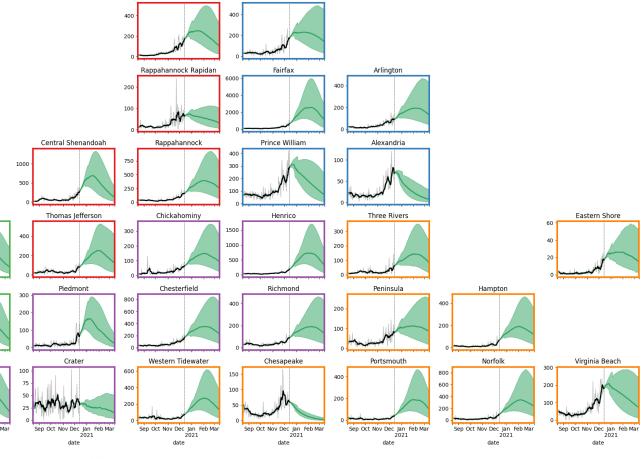


District Level Projections: Adaptive-MoreControl

Adaptive projections by District

Projections that best fit recent trends

Daily confirmed cases rate (per 100K)
 by Region (blue solid) with
 simulation colored by scenario



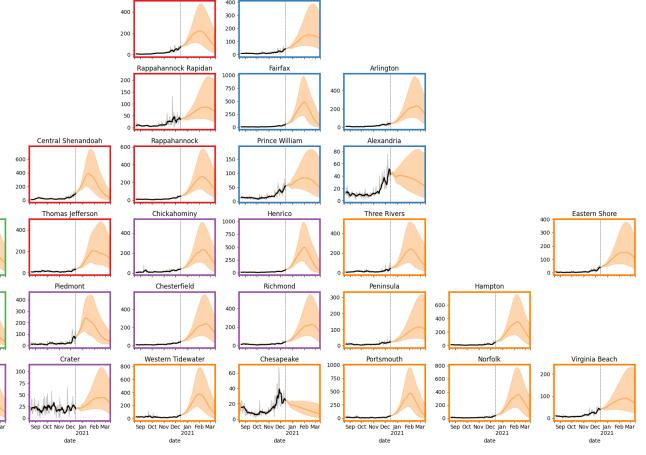


District Level Projections: Adaptive-LessControl

Adaptive projections by District

Projections that best fit recent trends

 Daily confirmed cases rate (per 100K) by Region (blue solid) with simulation colored by scenario





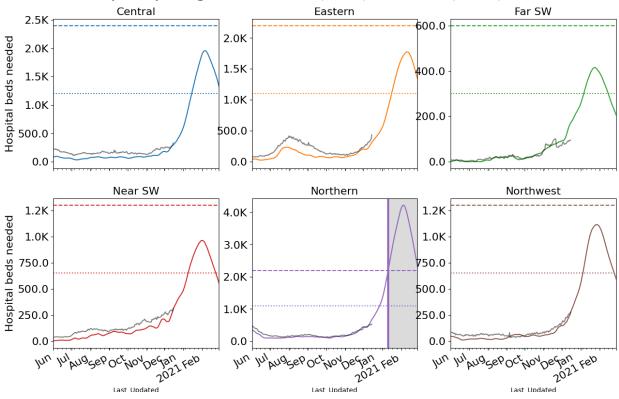
Cumberland

400 -

Hospital Demand and Bed Capacity by Region

Capacities* by Region – Adaptive-LessControl

COVID-19 capacity ranges from 80% (dots) to 120% (dash) of total beds



Week Ending	Adaptive	Adaptive- LessControl
12/13/20	25,565	25,565
12/20/20	33,935	33,947
12/27/20	43,378	43,345
1/3/20	54,197	57,996
1/10/20	67,163	80,833
1/17/20	80,341	103,738
1/24/20	90,567	122,656
1/31/20	95,791	136,815
2/7/20	98,331	137,952
2/14/20	93,617	124,628
2/21/20	82,942	106,152
2/28/20	69,789	85,445

If Adaptive-LessControl scenario persists:

- All regions approach initial bed capacity this winter
- Surge capacity exceeded in Northern region, in mid-Jan to early March



^{*} Assumes average length of stay of 8 days 17-Dec-20

Key Takeaways

Projecting future cases precisely is impossible and unnecessary. Even without perfect projections, we can confidently draw conclusions:

- Case growth in Virginia seems to have further rebounded following Thanksgiving holiday
- VA mean weekly incidence (44/100K) up (from 35) as national surge slows and is steady for first week in months (to 66/100K from 67/100K).
- Recent updates:
 - Added preliminary estimates for vaccination impact
 - Planning scenarios date adjusted to Christmas holiday, Dec 24th
 - Case ascertainment estimates recalculated with new data, remain unchanged
- Behavioral changes can outpace impact of optimistic vaccine rollout and prevent significantly more cases by Spring
- The situation is changing rapidly. Models will be updated regularly.



References

Venkatramanan, S., et al. "Optimizing spatial allocation of seasonal influenza vaccine under temporal constraints." *PLoS computational biology* 15.9 (2019): e1007111.

Arindam Fadikar, Dave Higdon, Jiangzhuo Chen, Bryan Lewis, Srinivasan Venkatramanan, and Madhav Marathe. Calibrating a stochastic, agent-based model using quantile-based emulation. SIAM/ASA Journal on Uncertainty Quantification, 6(4):1685–1706, 2018.

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Biocomplexity Institute. COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard. https://nssac.bii.virginia.edu/covid-19/dashboard/

Google. COVID-19 community mobility reports. https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/

Biocomplexity page for data and other resources related to COVID-19: https://covid19.biocomplexity.virginia.edu/



Questions?

Points of Contact

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Biocomplexity COVID-19 Response Team

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Supplemental Slides



Estimating Daily Reproductive Number

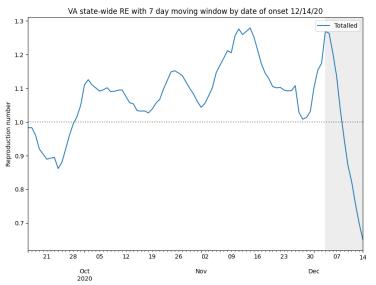
Dec 4th Estimates

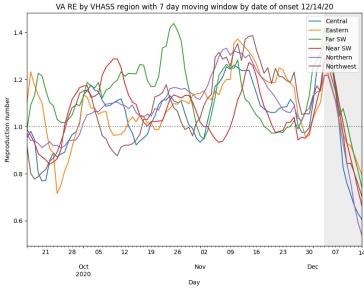
Region	Date of Onset R _e	Date Onset Diff Last Week
State-wide	1.252	0.306
Central	1.345	0.437
Eastern	1.185	0.231
Far SW	1.406	0.415
Near SW	1.289	0.405
Northern	1.202	0.244
Northwest	1.247	0.255

Methodology

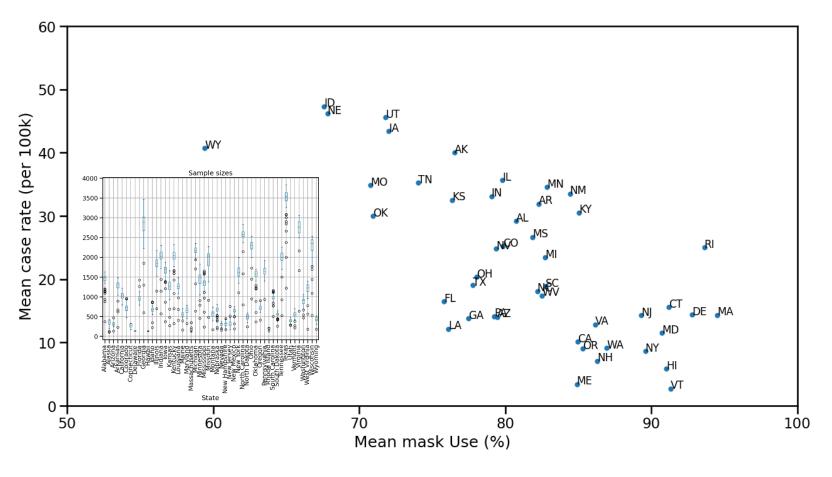
- Wallinga-Teunis method (EpiEstim¹) for cases by date of onset
- Serial interval: 6 days (2 day std dev)
- Recent estimates may be unstable due to backfill

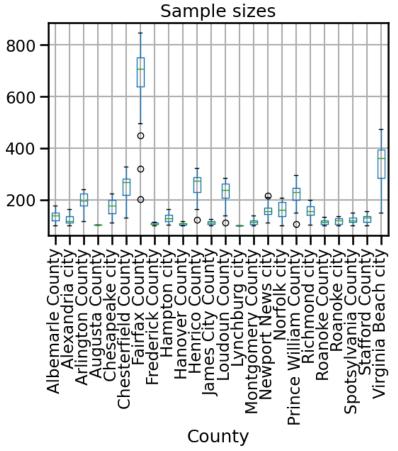
1. Anne Cori, Neil M. Ferguson, Christophe Fraser, Simon Cauchemez. A New Framework and Software to Estimate Time-Varying Reproduction Numbers During Epidemics. American Journal of Epidemiology, Volume 178, Issue 9, 1 November 2013, Pages 1505–1512, https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwt133





Mask usage sample sizes





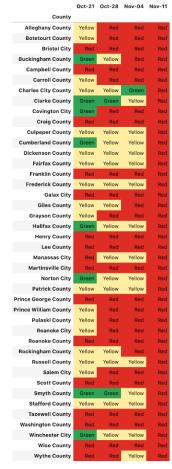
17-Dec-20

Test positivity across VA counties

- CMS weekly summary (used for guiding nursing homes testing protocol)
- Data: COVID-19 Electronic Lab Reporting (CELR); HHS Unified Testing Dataset;
- County level testing counts and test positivity rates for RT-PCR tests.

https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/q5r5-gjyu

- Green: Test positivity <5.0% or with <20 tests in past 14 days
- Yellow: Test positivity 5.0%-10.0% or with <500 tests and <2000 tests/100k and >10% positivity over 14 days
- Red: >10.0% and not meeting the criteria for "Green" or "Yellow"



Red on Nov 11 (latest)

Red on Oct 21 (4-week back)

Oct-21 Oct-28 Nov-04 Nov-11

Amherst Count Bedford County Bristol City

Campbell County **Charlotte County**

> Craig County Franklin City

Franklin County **Galax City**

Greensville County Henry County Lee County

Manassas City

Prince Edward County

Prince George County Radford City

Roanoke County

Washington County

Scott County Southampton County

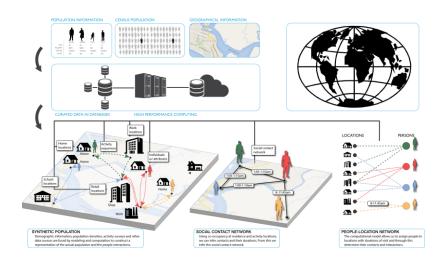
Wise County

MIVERSITY VIRGINIA

Agent-based Model (ABM)

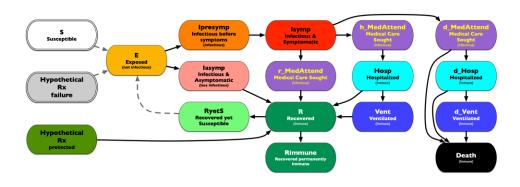
EpiHiper: Distributed network-based stochastic disease transmission simulations

- Assess the impact on transmission under different conditions
- Assess the impacts of contact tracing



Synthetic Population

- Census derived age and household structure
- Time-Use survey driven activities at appropriate locations



Detailed Disease Course of COVID-19

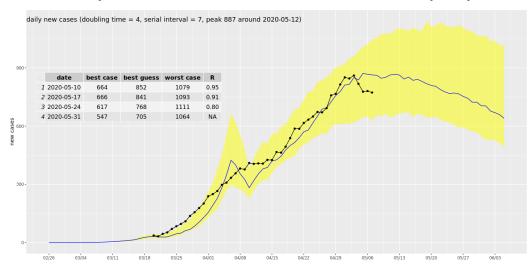
- Literature based probabilities of outcomes with appropriate delays
- Varying levels of infectiousness
- Hypothetical treatments for future developments



ABM Social Distancing Rebound Study Design

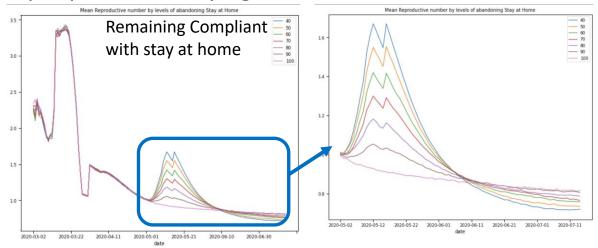
Study of "Stay Home" policy adherence

- Calibration to current state in epidemic
- Implement "release" of different proportions of people from "staying at home"



Calibration to Current State

- Adjust transmission and adherence to current policies to current observations
- For Virginia, with same seeding approach as PatchSim



Impacts on Reproductive number with release

- After release, spike in transmission driven by additional interactions at work, retail, and other
- At 25% release (70-80% remain compliant)
- Translates to 15% increase in transmission, which represents a 1/6th return to pre-pandemic levels



Medical Resource Demand Dashboard

https://nssac.bii.virginia.edu/covid-19/vmrddash/

